SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 3-17 with the following paragraph:

The second step **11** in the method of the present invention shown in **Fig. 1** is the creation of a chronic wound selectively in the high dermis by the method described in Tankovich (U.S. Patent No. 6,036,684, col. 4, lines 5-31) in which the skin is exposed to laser pulses at a frequency of about 1 Hz. This is produced by a photomechanical laser treatment wherein the laser light does not interact directly with the skin but instead interacts with a contaminant in the skin. The contaminant has the properties of absorbing the laser light and exploding. The contaminant is carbon or graphite particles in oil **20** which is applied to the skin (see **Fig. 2**). Once the contaminant or activating solution is applied to the skin, the laser treatment can begin. The energy from the laser is adjusted to be just sufficient to cause the particles to explode. As the particles explode, they cause ~~the removal of the stratum corneum and~~ the mineral oil **20** to penetrates into the epidermis producing hydration of the epidermis by retarding the evaporation of water (see **Fig. 2**). The heat from the explosion of the contaminant particles will induce a photothermal injury relatively selectively in the rete peg area of the high dermis **22** initiating a normal wound healing process. The epidermis is left intact. Since the skin is exposed to laser pulses at a frequency of about 1 Hz, only one pass of the laser light is required to produce a single pulse exposure to the skin. This process does not remove hair or skin because the skin must be exposed to at least 3 pulses of laser light (see col. 4, lines 31-53) to remove the stratum corneum, and 4 or 5 pulses to remove hair (see col. 5, lines 43-64). In order to produce a sufficient degree of injury to the wound, the laser treatment is produced several times over a six month period, preferably six times over a six month period. During this first six months the retinoic acid is applied topically twice per week as described above.